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Regional Information Series

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
AGRICULTURAL ADJUSTMENT ADMINISTRATION

1937 AGRICULTURAL CONSERVATION PROGRAM - - - - - NORTHEAST REGION

20 WAYS TO CONSERVE SOIL AND
QUALIFY FOR PAYMENTS IN NEW YORK

	Page
1. USING LIMESTONE WITH SOIL-CONSERVING CROPS---	3
2. USING SUPERPHOSPHATE WITH SOIL-CONSERVING CROPS-----	3
3. USING POTASH WITH SOIL-CONSERVING CROPS-----	3
4. SEEDING WILD WHITE CLOVER-----	3
5. SEEDING CORNELL PASTURE MIXTURE-----	3
6. SEEDING RED OR ALSIKE CLOVER-----	4
7. SEEDING ALFALFA-----	4
8. GROWING SMALL GRAINS OR ANNUAL GRASSES AS GREEN-MANURE AND COVER CROPS-----	5
9. GROWING LEGUMES AS GREEN-MANURE AND COVER CROPS-----	5
10. MULCHING ORCHARDS-----	6
11. REMOVING UNPRODUCTIVE ORCHARD TREES AND MAINTAINING LEGUMES-----	6
12. REMOVING UNPRODUCTIVE VINES AND MAINTAINING LEGUMES-----	6
13. USING NITROGEN ON SOD OR COVER CROPS IN OR- CHARDS AND VINEYARDS-----	7
14. IMPROVING WOODLANDS-----	7
15. BUILDING 2-STRAND WOODLAND PASTURE FENCES-----	7
16. BUILDING 3-STRAND WOODLAND PASTURE FENCES-----	7
17. PLANTING FOREST TREES-----	7
18. STRIP-CROPPING-----	7
19. PLANTING SHRUB WINDBREAKS-----	8
20. PLANTING GRAIN WINDBREAKS-----	8

TO NEW YORK FARMERS:

By doing one or more of the 20 things listed above you can qualify for payment under the 1937 agricultural conservation program. The payments will cover part of the out-of-pocket cost of using the practices. This leaflet gives the rates of payment for each practice and tells just what to do to be eligible for a payment. The payments and the rates given here are contingent upon Congress making

available for 1937 the full amount of money authorized in the Soil Conservation and Domestic Allotment Act. If you are particularly interested in any one practice you can find it quickly by turning to the page number listed on page 1 opposite the name of the practice.

A top limit will be established for the total amount that may be earned by adopting soil-building practices on any one farm. "The Soil-Building Allowance" (p. 2) tells how to figure out what that allowance will be for your farm. "Applying for Payment" (p. 8) and "Other Points Affecting Payment" (p. 8) also contain information you will need. Terms such as "cropland" and "open noncrop pasture" have definite meanings in this program. These and other terms are defined on page 10.

After you find out just how the program will help you carry out your plans for good farming, you will need to discuss those plans with your county agent or committeeman, to make sure that what you intend to do can be approved as good farming for your particular land.

Probably there is nothing unfamiliar in the list of soil-building practices. All of them are suited to conditions in New York and have been encouraged by the State extension service. Many successful farmers have been using them for years. Liming, for instance, is needed for sweetening acid soils. The soil on many farms in the State needs either phosphoric acid, or potash, or nitrogen, or combinations of the three to supply the proper plant food. Turning under green-manure crops enriches the soil.

The national agricultural conservation program aims at conserving and improving national farm resources. The program for New York carries out the principles of the national program through the use of practices especially suited to New York farms. The practices for the State were recommended by New York county and State committees and approved by the United States Secretary of Agriculture.

THE SOIL-BUILDING ALLOWANCE

New York farmers who properly carry out one or more approved soil-building practices will be eligible for payments within the limits of their soil-building allowances.

The soil-building allowance is the total amount which may be earned by adopting soil-building practices on a farm. A farmer may earn part or all of his allowance, depending on the approved practices he uses. But he cannot earn more than his allowance, no matter how many practices he uses.

The allowance described here does not apply to farms eligible for payments for diverting land from the production of tobacco to soil-conserving crops. Northeast Region Bulletin 101-A—New York tells how the program will work for tobacco farms.

For all other farms, the items listed below will be counted in determining the soil-building allowance. Every farm not eligible for diversion payments will have an allowance of at least \$20, even if the items do not add up to that amount.

\$1 for each acre of cropland

\$1 additional for each acre of cropland in commercial orchards cultivated on the farm on January 1, 1937

\$1 additional for each acre of cropland on which *only one* crop of commercial vegetables was grown in 1936

\$2 additional for each acre of cropland on which *two or more* crops of commercial vegetables were grown on the same acreage in 1936

35 cents for each acre of fenced noncrop open pasture land in excess of one-half of the number of acres of cropland on the farm.

SOIL-BUILDING PRACTICES

A New York farmer may choose and carry out any one or more of the 20 approved soil-building practices which will help to improve his farm.

If a practice calls for the use of particular materials, such as limestone, a farmer may qualify for payment by using equivalent amounts of other material suitable for the purpose.

SEEDING SOIL-CONSERVING CROPS AND FERTILIZING THEM

Practices no. 1 to no. 7 all require material such as seed, lime, or fertilizer. The name of each of the seven practices and the rate of payment are given just below. Those rates will apply if the materials are used in specified amounts and in ways that definitely conserve soil. Instructions for using the materials follow the list of the seven practices.

Practice No. 1.—RATE OF PAYMENT: In Area A, \$3 per ton (2,000 pounds); in Area B, \$4 per ton (2,000 pounds).

Using pulverized limestone.

Area A includes all the State except Long Island and Staten Island; Area B includes Long Island and Staten Island.

Pulverized limestone is limestone which will analyze at least 80 percent carbonates, 90 percent of which will pass through a 20-mesh sieve and 50 percent of which will pass through a 100-mesh sieve.

The equivalent of 2,000 pounds of pulverized limestone is either: (1) 2,000 pounds of ground limestone or marl which will analyze at least 80 percent carbonates, 90 percent of which will pass through a 20-mesh sieve, and from which none of the fine material has been removed; or (2) 1,500 pounds of hydrated lime; or (3) 1,000 pounds of ground burned lime, or (4) other approved material.

Practice No. 2.—RATE OF PAYMENT, 80 cents per 100 pounds.

Using 20 percent superphosphate.

When superphosphate is used in connection with a seeding made with small grains or peas as a nurse crop which is harvested for grain or peas for canning, payment will be made only on the quantity of 20 percent superphosphate which is in excess of 160 pounds per acre.

Practice No. 3.—RATE OF PAYMENT, \$1.80 per 100 pounds.

Using 60 percent muriate of potash.

Practice No. 4.—RATE OF PAYMENT, \$1 per acre.

Seeding wild white clover seed having a certificate of origin approved by the county committee upon recommendations of the New York State College of Agriculture, Extension Service.

Practice No. 5.—RATE OF PAYMENT, \$3 per acre.

Seeding Cornell Pasture Mixture.

Practice No. 6.—RATE OF PAYMENT, \$2 per acre.

Seeding hardy northern-grown domestic or Canadian red clover seed or any alsike clover seed. (Whenever clover seed is mentioned in this leaflet, such seed is meant.)

Practice No. 7.—RATE OF PAYMENT, \$3 per acre.

Seeding hardy northern-grown domestic or Canadian alfalfa seed. (Whenever alfalfa seed is mentioned in this leaflet, such seed is meant.)

HOW TO EARN PAYMENTS FOR PRACTICES NO. 1 TO NO. 7

In order to qualify for payments for adopting one or more of these seven practices, it is necessary to follow the methods listed here:

Improving and establishing pastures.—Applying not less than the following quantities of the following materials or their equivalents, per acre, on pasture land, or in preparation for seeding land to wild white clover or Cornell Pasture Mixture, and seeding the land to wild white clover or Cornell Pasture Mixture:

Applying 400 to 600 pounds of 20 percent superphosphate per acre; or

Seeding not less than 1 pound of wild white clover seed per acre, and applying to the same land 400 to 600 pounds of 20 percent superphosphate per acre; or

Seeding not less than 25 pounds of Cornell Pasture Mixture per acre, after a new seedbed has been prepared by harrowing or plowing; and applying to the same land 400 to 600 pounds of 20 percent superphosphate per acre; or

Applying to the same land 2,000 to 4,000 pounds of pulverized limestone per acre and 400 to 600 pounds of 20 percent superphosphate per acre; or

Applying to the same land 2,000 to 4,000 pounds of pulverized limestone per acre and 400 to 600 pounds of 20 percent superphosphate per acre, and seeding on the same land at least 1 pound of wild white clover seed per acre; or

Applying to the same land 2,000 to 4,000 pounds of pulverized limestone and 400 to 600 pounds of 20 percent superphosphate, and seeding on the same land at least 25 pounds of Cornell Pasture Mixture per acre when a new seedbed has been prepared by harrowing or plowing.

Improving established hay lands.—Applying not less than 400 to 600 pounds of 20 percent superphosphate or its equivalent, per acre, to established hay land.

Establishing new seedings of grasses and legumes.—Seeding either legumes or grass and legume mixtures containing at least 40 percent by weight of legume seeds on land prepared at or before the time of seeding by the application of at least the following amounts per acre of the following materials or their equivalents. Seedings can be made either without a nurse crop or with a nurse crop of oats, barley, peas, wheat, rye, or a mixture of any of these. Payment will be made on the basis of lime and fertilizer (not seed) used.

300 to 600 pounds of 20 percent superphosphate per acre; or

300 to 600 pounds of 20 percent superphosphate per acre and 50 to 200 pounds of 60 percent muriate of potash per acre; or

2,000 to 4,000 pounds of pulverized limestone and 300 to 600 pounds of 20 percent superphosphate per acre; or

2,000 to 4,000 pounds of pulverized limestone, 300 to 600 pounds of 20 percent superphosphate, and 50 to 200 pounds of 60 percent muriate of potash per acre.

When seedings are made with required amounts of the legumes listed below, payments for seed (listed under practices no. 6 and no. 7), in addition to payments for preparing the land (listed under practices nos. 1, 2, and 3), will be made:

(1) Red clover seed or alsike clover seed, or mixtures of one or both of these alfalfa or with timothy or other grasses. When red clover or alsike clover or a mixture of these is seeded without grasses or alfalfa, at least 8 pounds of clover seed per acre shall be used. When red clover or alsike clover or alfalfa is used in a mixture with timothy or other grasses, at least 5 pounds per acre of the mixture shall be clover or alfalfa seed, as described above, and at least 14 pounds of the mixture per acre shall be used. The timothy or other grasses may have been seeded in the fall of 1936. If alfalfa is used it shall be considered an equivalent of red clover seed and payment will be made at the rate specified under practice no. 6.

(2) Alfalfa seed or mixtures containing alfalfa, using at least 12 pounds of alfalfa seed per acre.

Liming cropland.—Applying 2,000 to 4,000 pounds of pulverized limestone or its equivalent, per acre, to cropland in preparation for a legume seeding.

Applying superphosphate in preparation for seeding legumes.—Applying, between July 15, 1937, and October 31, 1937, from 300 to 600 pounds of 20 percent superphosphate or its equivalent, per acre, to cropland if the county committee determines that such application is made in preparation for seeding the cropland to legumes or to a grass and legume mixture in the spring of 1938. In all cases payment will be made only on the amount of 20 percent superphosphate which is in excess of 160 pounds per acre.

Fertilizing green-manure crops.—Applying 300 to 600 pounds of 20 percent superphosphate per acre to any of the crops specified in practices no. 8 or no. 9 below; or

Applying 2,000 to 4,000 pounds of pulverized limestone or its equivalent, per acre, to any of the crops specified in practices no. 8 or no. 9 below; or

Applying to the same land 2,000 to 4,000 pounds of pulverized limestone and 300 to 600 pounds of 20 percent superphosphate per acre to any of the crops specified in practices no. 8 or no. 9.

Applying superphosphate in farm manure.—Incorporating 20 percent superphosphate or its equivalent into animal or poultry manure and applying such manure to pastures or hay land, or to land in preparation for the establishment of new seedings of legumes or of grasses and legumes, so that the superphosphate will be applied in quantities within the limits already specified.

GROWING SMALL GRAINS AND ANNUAL GRASSES AS GREEN-MANURE AND COVER CROPS

Practice No. 8.—RATE OF PAYMENT, \$1.50 per acre.

Plowing or disking under small grains, or annual grasses, or mixtures of one or more of these with one or more legumes, after all have attained at least 2 months' or 12 inches' growth.

GROWING LEGUMES AS GREEN-MANURE AND COVER CROPS

Practice No. 9.—RATE OF PAYMENT, \$2.50 per acre.

Plowing or disking under biennial or perennial legumes from which no crop has been harvested and for which no seeding payment will be or has been made under this or any previous program, and which have attained at least 2 months' or 12 inches' growth; or annual legumes which have attained such growth.

On Long Island, on land normally used for commercial potato production, pearl millet, Japanese millet, or Sudan grass which is sown between May 15 and August 15 and plowed under after attaining at least 30 inches' growth, and which replaces a commercial vegetable crop may be substituted for the biennial or perennial legumes in practice no. 9.

OTHER POINTS ABOUT USING GREEN-MANURE PRACTICES

When green-manure crops are turned under on land used in most years for the production of commercial vegetables, so that at least one crop of commercial vegetables is replaced, the rates of payment for practices no. 8 and no. 9 will be doubled.

When annual grains are clipped green and left on land used in most years for the production of commercial vegetables, and no crop is removed from the land in 1937, the following substitute practice may be used: If the clipped grains are followed by legume crops specified in practice no. 9, and the legumes are left on the land for the remainder of the 1937 growing season, it will not be necessary to turn under either crop. Clipping the grains takes the place of turning them under, and leaving the legumes on the land takes the place of turning them under. The provision for doubled rates still will apply.

Leaving the entire crop on the land during the winter may be substituted for the plowing or disking under in practices no. 8 or no. 9, if the crop is one that is normally winter-killed.

Practices no. 8 and no. 9, and the provisions for fertilizing green-manure crops (p. 5) apply to commercial orchards as well as to other cropland.

MULCHING ORCHARDS

Practice No. 10.—RATE OF PAYMENT, \$2 per ton on not more than 5 tons per acre.

Applying to land used for commercial orchards not less than 3 tons of air-dried mulching material or its equivalent, per acre, in addition to leaving in the orchard all material produced therein during 1937 from grass, legume, green-manure, or cover crops.

REMOVING UNPRODUCTIVE ORCHARD TREES AND MAINTAINING LEGUMES

Practice No. 11.—RATE OF PAYMENT, \$10 per acre.

Removing all trees from unproductive orchard land if biennial or perennial legumes, or mixtures of any of these with one or more grasses are grown on the land so cleared, and if the normal acreage of other such crops on the farm is not reduced. If it is more practical, an equal increase of such crops on other land may be substituted instead of seeding the legumes on the cleared land. This practice applies only to farms in commercial fruit areas.

REMOVING UNPRODUCTIVE VINES AND MAINTAINING LEGUMES

Practice No. 12.—RATE OF PAYMENT, \$5 per acre.

Establishing, on a farm in a commercial vineyard area, an acreage of biennial or perennial legumes or mixtures of any of these with one or more grasses, on unproductive vineyard land from which all vines have been removed in 1937.

USING NITROGEN ON SOD OR COVER CROPS IN ORCHARDS AND VINEYARDS

Practice No. 13.—RATE OF PAYMENT, \$1 per acre.

Applying not less than 200 pounds of 16 percent nitrate of soda or its equivalent, per acre, over the entire acreage of any orchard or vineyard interplanted to sod or cover crops, and leaving such interplanted sod or cover crops in their entirety on the land.

IMPROVING WOODLANDS

Practice No. 14.—RATE OF PAYMENT, \$3 per acre on an area of not more than 4 acres.

Improving the stand of forest trees by cutting weed trees or thinning other trees, to develop at least 100 potential timber trees of desirable species, well distributed, over each acre of woodland. Before adopting this practice operators shall obtain approval of the county committee, based upon the recommendations of the New York State College of Agriculture Extension Service.

BUILDING 2-STRAND WOODLAND PASTURE FENCES

Practice No. 15.—RATE OF PAYMENT, 15 cents per rod of fence.

Constructing fence of not less than two strands of barbed wire with posts or other suitable supports not more than 1 rod apart, to exclude livestock from farm woodlands previously used for pasture.

BUILDING 3-STRAND WOODLAND PASTURE FENCES

Practice No. 16.—RATE OF PAYMENT, 20 cents per rod of fence.

Constructing fence of not less than three strands of barbed wire or of woven wire, at least 24 inches high, with not less than one strand of barbed wire, with posts or other suitable supports not more than 1 rod apart, to exclude livestock from farm woodlands previously used for pasture.

PLANTING FOREST TREES

Practice No. 17.—RATE OF PAYMENT, \$10 per acre.

Planting nursery-grown forest trees or lifted wild stock at the rate of not less than 1,000 trees per acre on open farm land. When white pine plantings are made, currant and gooseberry bushes within 1,000 feet of the planting site must be removed.

The following varieties of forest trees are recommended for planting: White cedar, balsam fir, European larch, Japanese larch, black locust, red pine, Scotch pine, white pine, Norway spruce, white spruce.

Other varieties may be planted if the county committee, following the advice of the New York State College of Agriculture Extension Service, approves the selection.

STRIP-CROPPING

Practice No. 18.—RATE OF PAYMENT, \$2 per acre of sod strips.

Establishing and maintaining contour strips of sod on fields devoted to intertilled crops. This practice shall be carried out according to plans approved in advance by the county committee and based upon the recommendation of the Soil Conservation Service and the New York State College of Agriculture Extension Service.

PLANTING SHRUB WINDBREAKS

Practice No. 19.—RATE OF PAYMENT, \$1 per acre of land protected.

Planting approved shrubs not more than 1 foot apart in parallel rows not more than 250 feet apart on muck or sandy soils. Before performing this practice, operators shall obtain the approval of the county committee, based upon the advice of the New York State College of Agriculture Extension Service.

PLANTING GRAIN WINDBREAKS

Practice No. 20.—RATE OF PAYMENT, 25 cents per acre of land protected.

Planting grain or grain mixtures in parallel strips not more than 30 feet apart at right angles to the direction of the prevailing winds, on muck or sandy soils, with each strip consisting of two or more rows of small grain or small grain mixtures not more than 1 foot apart, with the grain permitted to grow until the interplanted crops have attained at least eight weeks' growth.

Payments will be made for a combination of practices no. 19 and no. 20 on the same land when prior approval through the county committee has been obtained.

APPLYING FOR PAYMENTS

To be eligible to participate in the 1937 agricultural conservation program, a farmer must make out all necessary forms and supply the other necessary information. Forms and information shall be filed with the county committee within time limits established by the State committee with the approval of the Director of the Northeast Division of the Agricultural Adjustment Administration.

Payments will be made only upon application on the proper form filed with the county committee within the time fixed by the Secretary of Agriculture, supported by any necessary information regarding farming operations.

An application for payment may be made by any producer who is entitled to receive all or a share of the crops, or the proceeds of the crops, produced on the farm in 1937, or any producer who incurs all or any part of the expense of soil-building practices carried out on the farm.

OTHER PROVISIONS AFFECTING PAYMENTS

RATES OF PAYMENT.—The rates listed in this leaflet may be increased or decreased by not more than 10 percent, depending on how many farmers take part in the program.

TIME LIMIT.—Payments under the 1937 program will be made only for practices carried out before December 1, 1937.

APPROVAL REQUIRED.—Payment will be made only if a practice is in line with generally accepted standards of good farming. For that reason, every farmer who plans to carry out a soil-building practice should first consult with his county committee, to make

sure that the practice is suitable to his farm and that the methods and materials he plans to use are up to approved standards.

NO DUPLICATION OF PAYMENT.—No payment will be made for a practice carried out on any acreage if labor, seed, or other material used in carrying out the practice is furnished free or paid for by a State or Federal agency.

INCREASE IN ACREAGE OF SOIL-DEPLETING CROPS.—The Secretary of Agriculture reserves the right to make deductions from payments otherwise earned, if in 1937 a farm has an acreage of general soil-depleting crops larger than the farm's normal acreage of such crops. The deduction will be \$10.50 for each acre by which the 1937 acreage of general soil-depleting crops exceeds the general soil-depleting base acreage which can be established for the farm. Farms with not more than 20 acres of general soil-depleting crops in 1937 would be exempt from deductions. If the Secretary finds it necessary to make such deductions in 1937, he will issue the necessary regulations for establishment of bases.

ASSOCIATION EXPENSES.—In computing payments, deductions will be made for county agricultural conservation committee expenses.

1937 OPERATIONS MUST BE CONSISTENT WITH PROGRAM.—Payments may be withheld if any rotation, cropping, or other practice which tends to defeat the purpose of the program is adopted in 1937. No payment will be made for any practice unless it is generally considered good farming practice for the locality.

OTHER GOVERNMENT PROGRAMS.—On any farm where a program is carried out in cooperation with the Soil Conservation Service or the Resettlement Administration, payment will be made only for carrying out such soil-building practices as are approved for the farm by the county committee prior to performance, in accordance with special instructions issued by the Secretary of Agriculture.

DIVISION OF PAYMENTS.—On farms where two or more producers are concerned, the soil-building payment shall be divided among them in proportion to each producer's share of the total expense of carrying out the soil-building practices, according to the facts found by the county committee.

MEMBERSHIP IN ASSOCIATION

Any person having an interest in the crops or proceeds of crops produced on any farm in his county in 1937 shall become a member of the County Agricultural Conservation Association whenever any form or information required in connection with the 1937 program is submitted for the farm in which he is interested; or whenever in 1937 he attends a meeting called for the purpose of electing committeemen. Any person shall cease to be a member of the association if in 1937 he does not file an application for payment within the time specified by the Secretary of Agriculture.

Each county association shall designate a group of persons to assist in the administration of the 1937 program in the county. That group will be known as the County Agricultural Conservation Committee, or county committee.

DEFINITIONS

CROPLAND is farm land which is tillable and on which at least one crop other than wild hay was harvested or planted for harvest between January 1, 1930, and January 1, 1937, and any other farm land devoted on January 1, 1937, to fruit orchards, vineyards, or cultivated bush fruits other than those abandoned.

COMMERCIAL ORCHARDS means fruit trees, cultivated nut trees, vineyards, or cultivated bush fruits on the farm on January 1, 1937, from which the principal part of the production is normally sold, including also the acreage of young non-bearing orchards from which the principal part of the production will be sold in 1937 or later.

COMMERCIAL VEGETABLES means vegetable or truck crops (including among others potatoes, sweetpotatoes, melons, cantaloups, and strawberries, but excluding sweet corn for canning and peas for canning) from which the principal part of the production was sold off the farm in 1936.

OPEN NONCROP PASTURE means fenced noncrop pasture land on which the predominant growth is forage suitable for dairy animals, and on which the number or grouping of any trees or shrubs is such that the land could not fairly be considered as woodland. Each 5 acres of such land must be capable of supporting at least one cow or one horse or the equivalent in smaller animals, during the normal pasture season. Five sheep, five goats, two calves, or two colts are considered the equivalents of one cow or one horse.

